

## The Second Hall 1989-2009

*North Muskham Village Hall by  
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**As described in the first article in this series, by Vic Armond, the first building on the field was mainly a sports pavilion used by the football teams at that time. It served well throughout the 70s and 80s but was not big enough to cater for the growing number of community groups: e.g. at that time badminton was played at the Woolhouse Hall (old school) prior to it being converted into dwellings. The Woolhouse Hall was also used by Playgroup.**

However, prior to it being replaced, the pavilion was well-used by a Youth Club, the Mother and Toddler Group, and the Brownies. Linda Guy remembers using the pavilion. "I remember taking our 3 children to the Mother and Toddler Group at the old Pavilion. It was a well-attended group and a good time was enjoyed by all the Mums and children. The Pavilion didn't have any running water so we used to go across the road to Alison Loynes house to fill the kettle! One fund-raising event that stands out for me was when we held a Christmas shopping evening and we decided that we would have to serve wine with gateau, as it was easier than making tea and coffee without running water!!

The pavilion was where a number of fund-raising events took place, including race nights. It also became the focus for the Muskham Feast for many years. It was finally taken down and sold for £250. It had lasted from the mid 70s to 1988.

### **The second village hall**

As the pavilion no longer met the needs of our growing village, a solution was found when a second hand building at Mapperley Hospital became available. On inspection by the Parish Council, it was clear that, with

some adaptation, this building could meet our needs. It was bought at a nominal cost but had to be moved quickly as it was scheduled for demolition. Jim Wishart recalls that a team from the village went to Mapperley Hospital to salvage taps, basins and other fittings to re-use at North Muskham.

The cost of taking it down at Mapperley and transport to Muskham was £11,620. Bob Beard's company transported to a nearby farm where it remained for a while until plans were drawn up and planning permission sought.



**The Second North Muskham Village Hall: View from the field**

A base was needed – it is still there as part of our current car park. It was laid by villager Ralph Talbot.

The cost of the base and services was £8,000 and the subsequent re-erection of the building by the company from Ilkeston was £3,000. The building needed re-roofing at a cost of £3,500. These costs were met through grants from the District Council, County Council and a Public Service loan. The total cost of this base and the erection of the building was in the region of £32,000. This included additional costs for electrical connections, water provision, toilets etc. The acquisition of the building its transport and erection was expertly led by David Jennings, Parish Council Chairman. Much of the work relating to planning and accessing grants and loans was undertaken by Dorothy Hatton, the Parish Clerk.



**North Muskham Village Hall: View of the entrance from the car park**

Once the main structure of the building was complete and it was watertight, it was left to the village to complete the hall internally. Many months of voluntary work by the village community completed the internal work on the hall. This included insulation, plaster boarding and panelling, as well as fitting doors and laying the main hall floor. The plaster boarding was donated by British Gypsum. The hall was complete and ready for use early in 1989 when it was officially opened by our MP and County Councillor Andy Stewart who had helped us acquire grants from Nottinghamshire CC.

The specialist volunteer-craftsmen who completed the work are recalled by Stephen Guy. Stephen says “I voluntarily carried out the electrical installation work as I was a registered electrician with the NICEIC. I was also a part of the small volunteer group that included Jack Brown, Doug Harrison and Chris Carr. We carried out the majority of the plaster boarding.



**The Second North Muskham Village Hall: View Nelson Lane**

The new building provided a large hall, small hall, meeting room – the Jennings Room named after David Jennings who had driven this project forward. There was also a large kitchen, changing rooms, toilets and cloakrooms.

Another memory from Linda Guy recalls the value of plaster board. “In 1989 my sister and I, along with a lot of friendly helpers, organised an Autumn Fair in aid of Marie Curie Nurses in the new building - But it wasn't completely finished inside!! We covered piles of plaster boards with tablecloths to use them as stalls!! Health and safety would never allow that now”.

The extra space provided by the second hall led to a growth of village groups. During its 20 years, it provided facilities for a Youth Club, the WI., Badminton, Short Mat Bowls, Dancing from lessons to groups for line dancing and fitness (Swing into Shape), Brownies, Playgroup, Mother and Toddler Group, Lunch Club, Karate, History Group, PC Meetings, Caravan Rallies and Football teams, both junior and senior. The ‘Out of School Club’ also began here in 1997 and Muskham Players began their annual pantomime and other productions in 1993. It provided a much better venue for social events, dances and children’s parties.



**2000 Inside the main hall for the new millennium**

In addition, the ‘new hall’ produced a dramatic increase in income sources. As an example, the final year of the pavilion produced an annual income of just under £2,000. The first year of our ‘new hall’ led to an annual income of nearly £12,000.

The second village hall lasted 20 years, but the cost of maintenance began to increase annually in the latter years: a leaking roof on the small hall, rotting timbers in the window frames and even in the main timber structure of the building, led to plans to provide a building of greater permanence.

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